

VINCENT E. PEITZ, 37045977, Sergeant, 41r Corps, United States Army. For heroism. On 5 September 1943, a B-17 was being refueled and the bombs loaded for the next day's mission when a flare was accidentally discharged in the cockpit. The upholstery and floor of the plane caught fire causing serious damage to the bomber and making an explosion imminent. Sergeant Peitz, displaying unusual presence of mind, immediately ran to a tool box 50 yards away and returned with a fire extinguisher. Although he knew that the plane might explode at any moment, he entered the cockpit through the bombardier's compartment and succeeded in extinguishing the rapidly spreading flames. By his courageous action, he probably saved the lives of the eighteen (18) men working around the plane in addition to preventing the destruction of the B-17. His clear thinking and unusual initiative in unhesitatingly entering the flaming plane has reflected great credit upon this non-commissioned officer. Sergeant Peitz's unflinching devotion to duty by completely disregarding his own safety to save a vitally needed aircraft has upheld the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Residence at enlistment: West Point, Iowa.

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